

SOME SUNDAY SEEDLESS SINS.

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The Lord seems to make no difference in the kinds of sins that the human family is addicted to, but there appear to be some sins not as gross or horifying as others. The act of murdering seems to be a greater sin than telling a lie, yet God does not classify sin, or make any difference in the kind or degree in sin.

I have named some sins seedless, from the fact that they are supposed not to be harmful, and that they are supposed not to have seeds from which to be propagated.

When one eats fruit with seeds he is apt to eat all the fruit and throw the seeds away, and the chance is that it will take root and spring up and produce more fruit and seeds.

In traveling twenty-five miles round trip several Sundays each month one is enabled to see some Sunday sights not common to those who remain at home.

In starting out early from home I passed the homes of several members of different churches each of which were giving their cattle, sheep and colts salt. These, too, are men who try to shape the lives of those who do not live a life on a line as straight as theirs. In fact I notice that feeding salt to cattle on Sunday is quite common among farmer Christians of all denominations. This, as I said, may be a seedless sin, but it may not be so harmless after all. A work that should and could be done on some other day should not be put off for Sunday. It is not right to put off odd jobs for Sunday, that should and could be done on other days.

No manual work but works of necessity and works of mercy should be done on Sunday.

Next I pass a man who is coming in with his gun on his shoulder, and when I slightly reproved him for his sporting proclivity on the Sabbath, he replied that a "hawk had a fashion of coming to his place every Sunday morning." The truth of this statement I could not deny, but I thought it more than passing strange that that hawk knew just when Sunday came, and then just to come on Sunday and no other day. If it had been near the middle of the day, the hawk if he knew it was Sunday, might have tried to take advantage of these people going to church to make a raid on the poultry yard unknown to the family and unknown to himself, but this was Sunday morning and it remains a puzzle to me what strange things happen sometimes to some people. I don't know that there is any sin in shooting at a hawk on Sunday if thereby the poultry yard can be saved from great slaughter, but the

practice of hunting hawks on Sunday and the statement made about the hawk is the part of the question that I wish to emphasize.

I pass on and come to a large forest, and as I am trying to think of God and the message I am to deliver, suddenly my horse shies at two men stooping behind a pile of newly made shingles. I notice that these men are busying themselves about the number of shingles in the pile and I find out that these men are counting shingles on Sunday.

Be it said to the credit of these men that they appeared to be much ashamed of the job they were at for they knew me. I leave these men and feel relieved to get away, as I felt embarrassed for their sakes.

I pass on and as I near my appointment I find some of my own congregation with guns on their shoulders. At this I am surprised as I know of no anticipated carnal warfare, nor the necessity of fire arms at church, but after being informed that a deer hunt was programmed for the following day some miles away, I knew that these men were using Sunday to get ready for Monday. It appears to me that these men would have felt very much ashamed of themselves, if not mortified, if they had met the Lord that Sabbath day. It appears to me they would have called for the mountains to fall upon them. These men were members of different churches, but to the credit of the Brethren church none of the aforesaid persons were members of the Brethren church.

These men took the Lord's day to gratify their ambition on which to do their sporting work. This is certainly not right. These men could have waited until Monday and could have had better luck, and a better conscience and a better hope of salvation.

I will close these recitals for fear some may think my labor for good is not producing the effect it should have, but I wish to say these are exceptions and not the rule, and that the sights were not all seen on one Sunday. A man, too, may get to heaven and do them, but the chances are against him, by doing a number of other things that there is doubt, if not actual sin in them, which rolls up a record of so many things that are against him, that in the end he may have more chances against him than for him, and these push him into perdition at last. We all had best look around for all the chances for us possible, for at our best we have many against us.

We should try to shun all the appearances of evil, so as to have a record if possible without spot or wrinkle.

Fishers Hill, Va.

Items of Interest.

—England claims 3,000,000 acres of United States land in Alaska.

—The date announced for the marriage of Ex-President Harrison is April next.

—The National Woman's Suffrage Association met in Washington last week.

—The Senate has passed the concurrent resolution denouncing the Armenian outrage.

—It has been proposed to connect the United States and Hawaii with an electric cable.

—The average circulation of the New York World during the month of November, 1895, was 581,937.

—The University of Michigan will not tolerate professionalism in connection with the athletic sports in that institution.

—On January 30, a new war vessel, the Helena, costing \$280,000 was successfully launched from the Newport News Shipyard.

—The two new senators from Utah took their seats in the United States Senate January 27. Both are free-coinage Republicans.

—During the past year New York City expended the enormous sum of \$90,000,000 in the erection and improvement of buildings.

—Hon. George F. Hoar, in the United States Senate, presented a joint resolution for a constitutional amendment admitting women suffrage.

—On January 29, Miss Clara Barton and her staff of the Red Cross Society arrived in England on their way to Turkey to distribute relief to the starving Armenians.

—On January 26, John Tyler the eldest son of President Tyler, died in Washington, D. C., aged seventy-six. He was for many years in the Redemption Bureau of the Treasury Department.

—A bill was passed by the National Senate Jan. 29, to pay \$7,419 to the widow of the late Justice Miller, of the Supreme Court of the United States, being the sum equal to the balance of his salary for the year in which he died.

—The saloon-keepers of Atlanta, Ga., suggested that the City Council raise their license fee from \$150 to \$500 per year. They are under the impression that such a move would stop the Prohibition agitation and crowd the disreputable dives out of the business. The council hesitated and proposed a compromise, making the fee \$250.